Recd Jan 25th
Ans same day

New York Jany 22d 1863

Dear Doct Engelmann

I find in L'Illustration Horticole for Nov. 1862. an article by Chas. Lemaire, containing some strictures on your Cactology - He thinks you are wrong in your considering Pilocereus as a subgenus & thinks it is a good genus & therefore calls Cereus giganteus Pilocereus Engelmanni. Thinking that this ~~you~~ would interest you I write to say that if you have not seen the article I will loan it to you -

I have left Michigan & am now one of the editors of the Agriculturist - I hope to get some time for botany but am not sufficiently settled to be able to work much yet -

Very truly

George Thurber

Care of American Agriculturist
41 Park row
N York City

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Rec^d May 5th 1863
Ans May 9

Miss Albertson
Westminster – Garden
Church

New York May 1st/63

Dear Doct. Engelmann.

Your kind letter as well as the journal came. Have been miserable with the ague for sometime. My friend Buchanan has a stray Cactacea which came among some Orchids from S. America I think. He does not recognize it as any cultivated species & as you can determine it so much better than I, I send it to you please report & oblige

Truly yours

George Thurber.

I had to make a new genus of that queer grass Vaseya. In my specimen the styles were all fallen. If you have a sketch of them or of Ovary & Squamulae please send.

Recd 28th May   Ans May 31st

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.
41 Park-Row, New-York City.
ORANGE JUDD, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

$1 A YEAR

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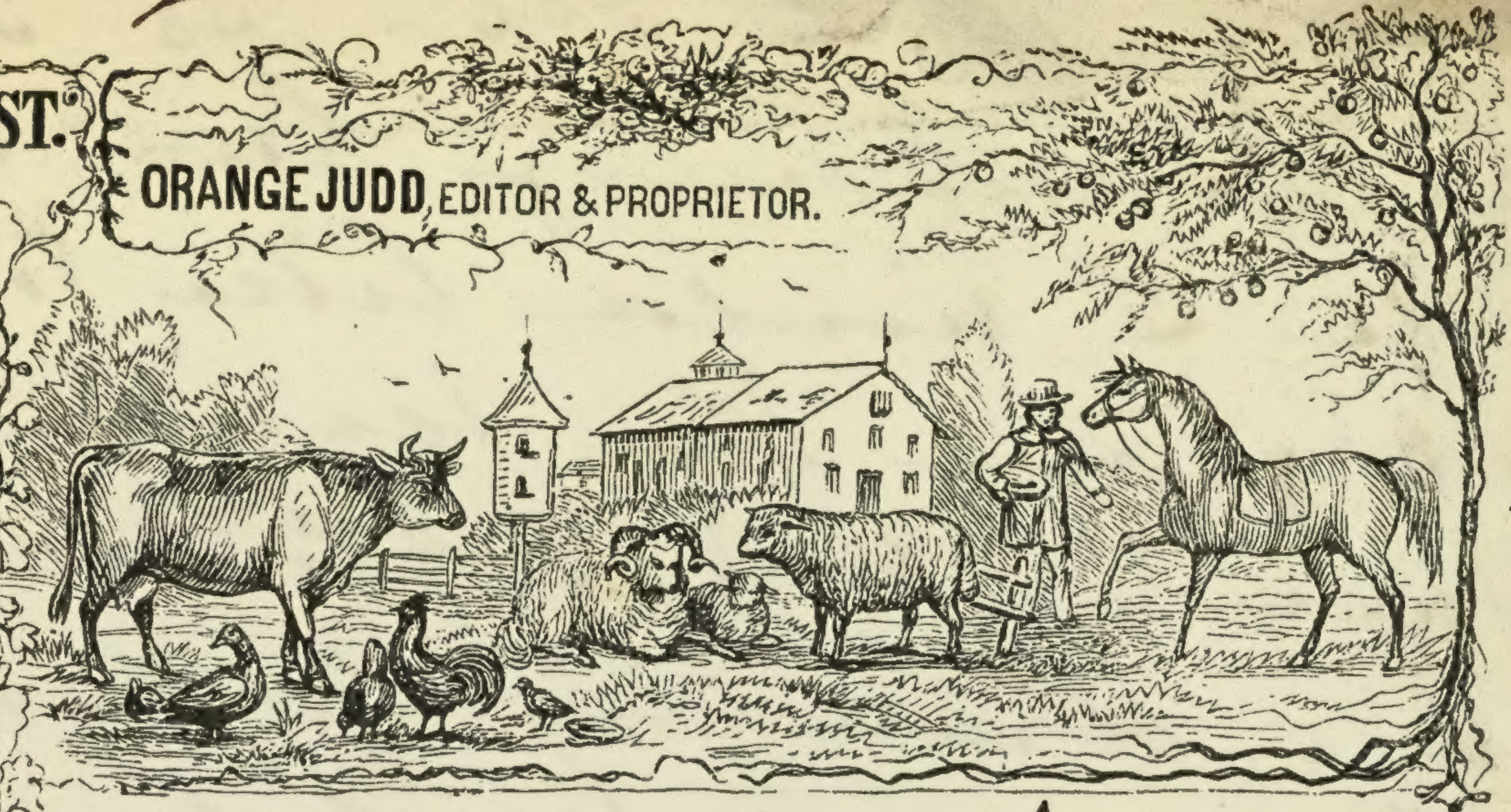

New-York, May 19 1863

Dear Doct. Engelmann

Mr Buchanan says that the Cactus is quite out of flower & has now fruit of the size of peas. He is quite sure that the ~~petals are, reflexed~~ sepals are not reflexed. It probably came from Honduras but as it is a chance plant he is not sure which, among several lots of Orchids, it came with. He will send you a piece & thinks we had better wait till the fruit ripens, when it can all go together. I will try & get you some pine flowers - do you wish those of other Coniferae - Exotics mainly? - I have the Transactions - the vol is incomplete - Pages 141 to 164 missing

Draba

☞ The regular circulation of the *American Agriculturist* to actual subscribers is at least *fifteen times greater* than the average circulation of all other similar journals. The regular circulation of the *Agriculturist* is from *thirty* to *forty thousand* **greater** than that of any other similar journal in the world.

& from 183 to 196 - As I suppose the Academy has them for sale I would like to buy a full set from the beginning - Have not had time to copy your drawing of Vaseya - will return it when I do.

In haste
Very truly
George Thurber

Recd Oct 9th
Ans Sept 18, 1864

New York Oct. 4th 1863

My Dear Doct Engelmann

Your two notes were duly received - Mr Buchanan was out west & I had to wait until he had returned from his journey - I went to his place to see about the Cereus - He had cut off the only fruiting piece to send to you - He has two plants both from the same place, they are very much alike in size & habit though probably different species & Mr B. cannot now positively tell which one it was that flowered - to guess at it would only confuse matters & you will have to wait until the next flowering season - I might have procured pieces of both to send to you but I did not think of it while I was there. I can do this if you wish - Mr B will take great pains to save you the fruit another time - he is very good about such things and has a great sympathy with botanists - He would like a bit of the C. lformis - If you publish an account of C. biscriatus please send it to Buchanan. Doct Torrey is well. He has to go to Washington now & then to see about the new currency business & his time has been so much broken up this summer that I think he does but very little in botany. I havent looked at a "botanical plant" this summer but hope soon to get settled down & at work. I have quite a collection from Bolander of California to work out. There are quite a number of specimens of Lophochaena; a rather rare chap. I dont recollect whether it is in your herb. I shall be glad to save one for you. Hays who I believe you knew by correspondence died last summer on the Isthmus of Panama. I did not get you any pine flowers as the young botanist upon whom I depended went to the wars. Dont be afraid of "trouble" when I can be of any service to you

Very truly

George Thurber

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Recd Dec 8th

New York Dec. 5th 1864.

Dear Doct Engelmann

Yours of last Sept has laid on my table all this while. I gave the specimen of Cereus to Mr Buchanan & he was glad to get it. His plants are at Astoria & as he is not there for weeks sometimes, he quite overlooked his plants at flowering time & omitted to notify me. I will try & keep track of it next season. I am glad you are straightening out the Callitriches. I hope you are as successful in diagnosis in obscure medical cases as you are in botanical ones. Doct. Torrey is well & is still engaged in putting his herbarium in order. He is one of the trustees of Columbia College & that takes much of his time. I had to omit botanical study during the summer & fear that I shall not do much better this winter, as I lecture again at the College of Pharmacy. I have just finished up the last lot of California grasses & have been obliged to make several new species, although I had a part of them in manuscript already. I shall be able to give you some

specimens, but the collection is a very
unequal one, there being but one representative of some things, while of
others there will be 20 or more.
You ask me how I get along with
the times which you regard as "politically, financially & socially miserable"
As you have introduced the subject
I will define my position - The times
are just splendid - Politically nothing
could be better. The people have decided
that the war shall go on until the
last rebel is conquered or killed - The
finances never troubled me, I always
had just too little money & have the
same now & always expect to have.
We dont see anything socially miserable here. Perhaps living in a slave state
you do - Well it serves them right,
they ought to be miserable & I hope
their misery will increase until they
give up slavery & rebellion - They will
have to do both & the sooner it is done
the better for them. As you asked my
views there they are in short. More of
a radical abolitionist, with the strongest Union sentiments. You seem to
find a gloomy aspect in affairs, that
may be due to your surroundings.
but you have the great consolation

of being able to withdraw from all that is distasteful & shut yourself up with the plants, which know neither war nor politics. I am always glad to hear from you & am

As ever truly yours

George Hunter

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Recd Dec 29 1865

New York Dec 26th 1865

My Dear Doct Engelmann

Upon overhauling a pile of letters I find a note from Buchanan, written last July, enclosing some seeds of his Epiphyllum or Cereus. I quite forgot about it, but forward them now. I lost the opportunity of seeing the plant in flower last Spring as Mr B. is seldom at Astoria except in summer. Chapman was here & made us a nice visit. I showed him several Florida grasses which he had not before seen.

Very truly yrs

George Thurber

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Recd Jan 10th

New York Jany 6-67-

My Dear Doctor Engelmann

Your letters of Oct 4th & Dec. 13 have been on my table as a reminder to attend to your request about Isoetes. My plants, are all at Columbia College & I have not been there since Spring - (except grasses which I keep with me) I have been in a perfect malestrom of work & the more I struggle to get out of it the more I am drawn in - We are largely concerned in the publication of Agricultural & horticultural books & Everything having any scientific squint has to be revised & prepared for the press by me - I find it worse than to write a book - I gave up my lectures in hope of having this winter, but until the 1st I have been busy day & night, on work which may help the pocket but does not assist botany. I am half miserable over it. but I hope to begin the year with better prospects. Tuesday - my first disengaged evening - I will go & see about the Isoetes. I had quite forgotten about the plant, but I now think I know what you mean - If it is in my herb. I shall be able to tell you its history. I shall be glad of duplicates of any Isoetes - Juncus or anything, provided you will allow me to repay in my own way. I haven't lost one particle of interest in plants - Arizona grasses I can probably name right off for you & I should like to have something that must be done, as grasses will take me away from business.

if anything will. The Viensation were received - for which thanks. - Will tell you what I find about Isoetes in a few days

& am as ever

Truly Yours

George Thurber

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Dr Geo. Thurber

Recd Sept 2d
An

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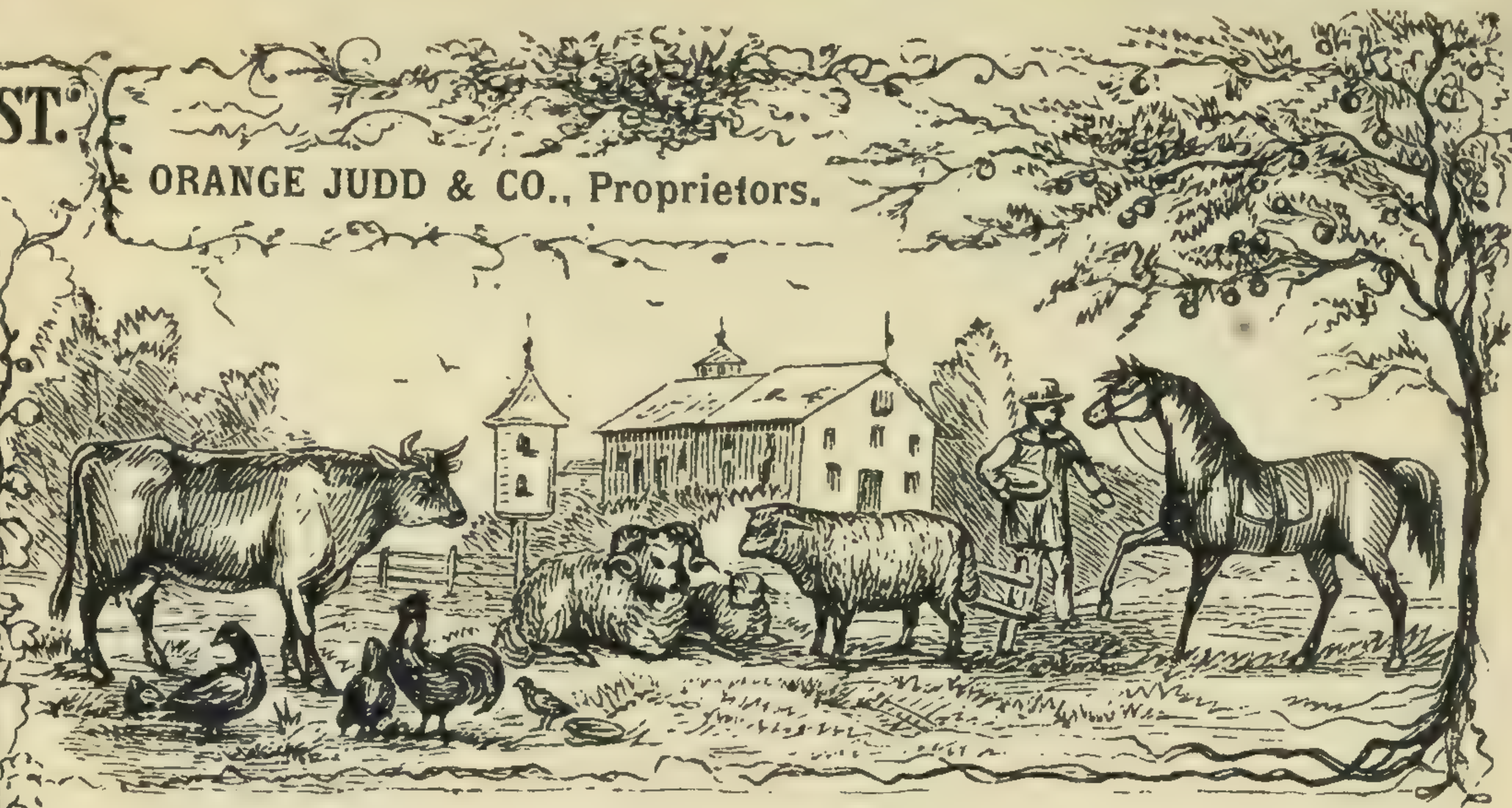

New-York, Aug 28 1867

Dear Doct Engelmann—

Your parcel came just as I was leaving for a trip to the North in search of some strength.—I shall probably be in St. Louis on the 11th of Sept to attend the Pomological Convention— I have not time to answer your queries now, but can better do it in person—

Sincerely Yours

George Thurber

Ans Dec. 22

New-York, December 2, 1867.

Dear Sir:

The present month completes a half century that has passed since the publication of Dr. John Torrey's first contribution to Botanical Literature. That an anniversary so interesting to every botanist may be properly celebrated, the Botanical Club of this city invite you to meet with them at **A SUPPER,** *to be given by them in honor of the occasion, at Parlors 13 and 14, Astor House, on Friday, the 20th inst.*

Very respectfully yours,

GEORGE THURBER,
JAMES HOGG,
On behalf of the Club.

N.B.—If unable to attend, please respond by letter. Address correspondence to George Thurber, No. 245 Broadway, New-York.

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No. 245 BROADWAY and 41 Park Row,

New-York, Jany 23 1868.

Dear Doctor Engelmann.

"An early answer requested" Engelm. in litt.
It is early in the morning – at least after twelve at night. I hope that is early enough.
1 I did receive Parrys grasses
2 I would like to see grasses from Arizona or anywhere.
I will sacredly return them, though I don't know what "at once" means 'tother side of the Mississippi – Hoopes has been here all the evening talking Coniferae all the evening.

Very sincerely
George Thurber

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Rec Febr 20
Ans same day.

New York Feb 16-68 -

Dear Doct Engelmann -

Your parcel of grasses (Palmer's) came - I have been very wicked & broken the sabbath at working for you - I have four lots - & that I may understand the matter - it is so long since some of them came - I will tell you what my recollection is about them -

1 - a collection by Drs Coues & Palmer - I was to take out duplicates & return the rest -

2 a collection by Parry I was to keep & send you the names -

3 a coll by Palmer - to be returned -

4 - a small lot collected by Dr Hayden - I have forgotten about these -

Thanks for the Muffin -

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which I will distribute -
Is it of any use to look
for flowers or fruit - I did
not find any at the first
& only trial I made -
Won't you send me a
sketch of the inflorescence of
this or some other sp. to use
at the Bot. Club. next week
~~It I~~ did not know of
your going to Europe until
your last, though in a pre-
vious letter you spoke of
"packing up". I - haste

Very Truly Yours
George Thurber

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Recd March 18th 1870
Ans — 20

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New-York, 186

Dear Doctor Engelmann -

You write me to punch up Doct. Torrey - but whom will you get to punch up me? - The case is thus - I sent to Dr. Torrey for your parcel, but none coming for a week or more I went to the College; He had forgotten that you had left anything there, but afterwards found the parcel & sent it to me - I then wrote Gray to know if there was yet time to send in your box - He wrote that the box had gone. So I have your parcel yet. Shall it go by express or await an opportunity which often occurs of sending to some of your booksellers in a parcel of books.

About Palmetto - I dont know where to send it to get it sawed. It will be a terrible job to saw it by hand as a number want pieces.

Do you write to Swallow now? I wish I could get a few roots of Lewisia - Dont forget Opuntias.

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& a bit of Buchloë from Shaws Garden
to Thurber

Very Truly
George Thurber

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Rec Jan 12th

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An Jan 17

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Thurber

"The Pines" ~~New-York~~, Jan'y 10th 1877

My Dear Doctor Engelmann.

It is too bad, after your kind note of Nov. last, not to have answered you sooner. My verdict on your conduct in not coming to New York, is like that of the western (probably Missouri) jury, who brought in "not guilty, provided he leaves the state within 24 hours." — You laugh ~~at~~ at my going to the city three days in succession — instead of regarding it — as you should — as a marked indication of my desire to see you — Well this is an ungrateful world, and I never had half my good deeds appreciated, while all my bad ones have been looked at through a multiplying glass. Going to the city is, with me a mere waste of time, and I am subject to such constant interruptions there that I never try to write there. and scarcely to correspond. —But as to my mad, because I didnt see you. its nothing to Meehan's. The poor fellow wrote me the most melancholy letter; yourself, Gray, Sargent, myself, and I dont know who else, were all at the Centennial, and didnt go to see him— He was bluer than the Ferrocyanide of Iron, or Pleasanton's blue glass (under which a calf becomes a cow in a few hours). He thought there "could not be much personal 'regard'" and all that— I felt in a sassy mood, and I think you would have laughed over the reply I made. It is astonishing that so sensible a fellow should be so needlessly sensitive. There is a great supply of trouble in the world, if one only looks for it. If I cant feel that a friend is the same, "yesterday, today & forever"; and if after not having seen or heard from him in 10 or 20 years, I cant feel that I can pick him up just where I left him, I dont care to bother about him. But, Oh Mr. Doct! my rage at your short comings—indeed not coming at all, is as nothing to my wrath

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now! You "like to see a good solid man mad at" you - I can supply you with satisfaction for the rest of your days. If you "were tickled" at my former "mad" my present madder (not *Rubia*) shall induce opisthotonos, or some such thing - Hold on - though - I dont think I am *mad* after all.! No I'm glad. I fling up my hat! I crow!! - Yes - sir. I am sorry it didn't happen in the centennial year, when I could have rolled myself in the American flag, & shouted Hail Columbia!

But it will do to begin the new century with. I shall record it on parchment, and leave it to my children's children (I have to do that, having none of my own!). That in the year 1877, it being the onehundredandoneth year of Independence, Doct. G. E. published as brand new, & and put # before the world, that which *i* (that is to express my modesty) discovered, writ, published in 1874 - ! - !! - !!! - !!!! - I am almost ready to say "now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace" - All other earthly honors dim in the light of this - The future can have in store no greater triumph - Indeed I am ready to say "*Bully - for Me!!*".

Perhaps you will like to know what all this farrago is about. None of us are absolutely perfect; the sun has spots, and I have always had an ill-defined feeling that there was something lacking *even* in yourself. Still I never could make it out, but now I know. Like the *roc's* Egg needed to complete the dome of the palace (overhaul your "Arabian Nights"), one thing was lacking. Eureka! – *You dont read the American Agriculturist*!! – "How do I know?" – Had you done so you would never have written in the "Botanical Gazette" (Coulters) for Jan. 1877, about "*A new Cuscuta* new at least to North America". in the manner you did. Instead, you would have said: "I have received from Rev. E. L. Greene a *Cuscuta* which he thinks new. If he wishes to know all about it, he will find it *described* and *figured* in the *American Agriculturist* for Dec. 1874.

New-York, 187

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Orange Judd, President. C. C. North, Vice-President. Samuel Burnham, Secretary.

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And by the way Mr. Gazette man, if any one wishes to ~~know~~ write anything about plants that have any Economical value, or otherwise, he should first consult the pages of that most reliable and remarkably wide-awake journal. Else if he dont mind, he will find that the Editor is a cuss-cuter than himself who has taken the wind out of his sails, bunged his two eyes (pair o'sights) as if he had been in an Epi-fight." - But as suggested before I'm too modest to say anything, so I - in token of abundant forgiveness for all the good you have done me, send the copy of the paper aforesaid, that you may see that it is not so new as you supposed, though not a cuscutographer, I managed to hit upon the right chap in this case, which is very satisfactory - You hurried from the East to escape the coming winter; if you are one of the sub-tropicals, you were wise; but if you would enjoy a winter, of the style people call "Old-fashioned", you should have staid - sleighing has been good for some weeks. - I am having a pupil at work on my herbarium, which has not of late years been "posted up" as book keepers say. This reminds me to ask you to follow the excellent example of Gray, and consecrate a pigeon hole to the subscriber, wherein are to be put whatever specimens can be spared. If you will do this I will endeavor to see ~~that~~ the reciprocity shall not be all on one side. (Mem. I want grasses always) Don't save this to be published with my obituary notice as an example of my elegant epistolary style. The fact is I have been working all day & evening at the annoying task of preparing the ms. of other people for the printer — it's miserable work, but must be done for persons who have ideas, but no words. So if I have allowed my pent up pen to get on a rampage, this will in part excuse it. It is not too late ~~to~~ wish yourself & Mrs Engelmann a Happy New Year from Sincerely yours

George Thurber

New-York, 187

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"The Ruins" New-York, Feb. 24th 1878

Dear Doct. Engelmann.

Yours found me laid-up with an ill turn & I could not look up the Jatropha sooner - My specimens are very young - just coming into flower - not the sign of a capsule. My note as to the seeds does not imply that I tried them - or even saw them. but like various other items, I put it down as it was told by the natives. Lobes of leaves run from 3 to 5 - and one leaf has 7 lobes. Have not been able to read the papers you kindly sent - Am sorry I cant help you on the seed. Dont feel much like writing

As ever yours truly

George Thurber

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Rec'd Cambridge Sept 22
ans same day

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New-York, Sept, 15 1879

Dear Doct Engelmann.

It was really a disappointment, not to have seen you when you were here = Please let me know on what day you will return - your note said "in about 10 or 12 days" - Nine of these days have passed, and I now fear that you will return while I am away. I shall go to Rochester tomorrow night and can not say on what day I will be back - I infer that you go back to Cambridge - At all events let me know what your future plans are and how - or rather when you can make me a visit - I must have at least a night from you, and as much more as I can get. If I know what your plans are, I will endeavor to conform my movements to them, but in the present case my absence will be to meet an engagement that I can not well postpone.

Very Sincerely
George Thurber

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Rec. Oct 1
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New York, Sept. 28d 188 1

Dear Doct. Engelmann -

Nearly two weeks ago I made a visit to our friend Sargent at Brookline, Mass. I was a very quiet guest, as I passed nearly a week in my room, oscillating between the bed and an easy chair and trying to make the best of a rheumatic foot that had puffed itself up as if it had done something to be proud of.

That is merely introductory to the statement that I was glad to hear from you and that you enjoyed your trips among the wilds -

You see that all this is prefatory to asking a favor. Can you tell from a "specimen brick" the style of architecture of a building? - If so you may be able to know a Pine by its leaves. I send foliage of a Pine from Pearce Co. Washington Terr. The only description given is: "found in the same soil as Abies Douglasii"

If you can give me the name I shall be glad, as it will oblige a good friend.

How about grasses? Did you harvest any interesting hay? There are yet a good many good things to be picked up in those mountains of California & northward, where species seem to be very much restricted to limited localities. If you have anything good, dont forget to give us a taste -

Very Sincerely Yours

George Thurber

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Rec Oct 28

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New York, Oct 25th 1881

My Dear Doct Engelmann -

Thanks for your pleasant letter, and for the name of the Pine. "I ought to have known it" - indeed! I do not presume to name far western pines from the leaves only, when there is the very Terebinthinate High Priest within reach - So also with vines - whereof Ecce signum! - Can you as readily dispose of this? It comes from Florida "the Southern part of the State" is as near as I have its habitat. Fruit described as having 6 to 8 berries to the cluster, "white with a pink cheek" - "vine small, dark brown" - This gives you all the information that I have - The person who sends it, while not much of a botanist is an excellent horticulturist and has a keen eye for plants - He thinks it is undescribed.

Yes, I do care for grasses - As soon as we get some cool weather I shall distribute the duplicates of the Cal. collections. There will be a chance for you to have your pile added to - So when you get your load of hay (Is it Fenian ammunition?) ready, send it on - the sooner now the better.

So you are a rheumaticus also - It is not one of the cases in which misery loves company -

Very Truly Yours

George Thurber

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Rec Nov 21

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"The Pines" ~~New York,~~ Nov. 16th 1881

My Dear Doctor.

You must excuse me - but I couldn't get around sooner - You have got hold of a long-shore thing - Triarpis purpurea Gray. and as many other names as you choose. The bits you send have lost - or never had - their upper florets and this is no doubt bothered you. Yours are not old enough to get the purple color -

As ever Truly

George Thurber

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New York, Dec 6th 1881

Dear Doct. Engelmann -

If there is anything that I do not like, it is to be hurried, and I will not try to hurry you; I will merely state a fact, and if that has the affect of hurrying you - upon your venerable head be it - and not on mine - I have a large lot of California grasses to assort and make up into sets. - These - the collections of the Cal. State Survey, in part, and in part (and a large one) the accumulations of various correspondents. I was intending, so soon as longer evenings came, to go at work at these, when you informed me that you had a lot to be named. and soon after, I had word from Lemmon that

he had a collection for me to
name (of which came to hand
today). I need not tell you
who have had so much ex-
perience, that ~~how desirable it is~~
when you have a set of plants
in hand, how much more read-
ily you can dispose of collec-
tions, to take them up while yo
attention is upon those from
the same country.
This is all the hurrying up I sh
do.
But I wish to ask? Of course
I do not know if you intend t
send me your whole bale of
hay, or only a numbered set. If you ser
the whole, how far can I ma
use of them? Please state f
clearly. Of course, if you have
anything unusual, I would
to distribute (with credit of co
in the sets that I shall make
up. In return it is likely th
I can give you many specimens that y
would not readily get els
where in a long time. As to

State Survey Hery - I do not recollect of any uniques - though there are several varieties of which specimens are few - When you have to do with your own specialties, you know what your duty is to your own herbarium - As human nature is much alike, I shall no doubt do with the specimens, much as you would. In making up the sets, I have to provide 1st The Cal. Acad. Nat. Sci -

2d - The Harvard Herbarium.

3d - Brewer - for the Yale Herb -

4th - Phila Acad. Nat. Sciences. -

5 - Kew Herb -

6 - Paris Museum -

Beyond these I have not much thought, but of course I should not forget you.

Now if you send me a single numbered set, I shall know what to do with it - But if you send me the lot, do you wish me to use any of them in the distribution referred to? Observe, I do not *ask* anything. State your wishes and they shall be obeyed with the utmost care.

Gray, in his first letter after his return, tells me. that Bentham (now 82 - I was at Kew on his 81st birthday!!) after setting down Gray's *Thurberia* (putting it in *Ingenhouzia*), was made for me a genus in *Gramineae*, but he Gray could recollect ~~any~~ that more about it, than it was American - and I am as

Ever Truly

George Thurber

It would please you to know how our friend Sargent talks about you as a traveling companion!

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New York, ...188

Ans Jan 9
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New York, Jany 4th 1882

My Dear Doct Engelmann -

The best reply I can make to your grass letter is to say - Send all your far western grasses. and I will do by you as I would have you do by me. It is against all rule for one who collects an unique specimen to part with it. While the probabilities are not large that you will have such specimens. Should such occur, I will see that your interests are properly cared for - Send on the hay - the quicker now the better. Hoping that you are in the enjoyment of all the good

things that we wish for our
friends at this season, I
am Very Truly as Ever

George Thurber

P.S. This of course says yes to your query about the Montana and Utah collections.

Gray says that Bentham having squelched his (G's) Thurberia, has made another one among the grasses, though he could not remember what it was.

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Ans Jan 19
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"The Pines" ~~New York~~, Jany 16 1882

Dear Doct Engelmann,

Yours of 12th is at hand - I suppose I may as well go upon the principle of "In for a Penny; in for a Pound" - and as I am about distributing western grasses, and you have a lot - your 1857 - 60 collections that you dont wish to dispose of otherwise, you had better add them to the general load of hay for distribution - In this case I can better get others to add to your herbarium, as I suppose you would like to come in for a set. Should you give these parcels a second trip across the continent, let me know if you have already kept a set for your own herb.—or shall I take one out for you? — Yes— Bentham is "like a bull in a China shop," when he gets at genera — you will see that I already accepted his Distichlis in Horceal. as it has priority — As to Vaseya, he seems against both yourself and Gray as well as poor I — for you at the time regarded it as generically distinct, — Eriocoma is just as good as any genus in grasses — I can't accept that — any how! — I return my old time label, — I am convinced that there is much to learn on the dioicity (or is it dioeciousness) of grasses — I have some puzzling observations on this — but now I must say Basta and ever truly George Thurber

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Rec March 23'
Ans April 25

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"The Pines" ~~New York~~, March 17 1882
"St. Patricks Day" at Mnt.

My Dear Doctor – Your bulky load of hay did come, all safely; and if I did not say so, it was because I was flat on my back where some of my rebellious arteries kept me – Every once a year or so I amuse myself with spitting blood – and lots of it – I have been cussed and per-cussed – pounded and listened at, and nothing can be found fault with in my lungs – but some nasty little bronchial artery will bust out and make trouble, for which the only relief seems to be perfect quiet, alternated with doses of that nastiest of all medicines, the fluid Extract of Ergot — a mean low botanical stuff — yah! — I can taste it now — Nothing save that Propalymine herring pickle stuff is so mean — However. I am over the trouble, I trust, for this year — I keep big and fat, and dont get a bit of credit for being an invalid.

I hope to get at the grass distribution soon, and will not forget your liberality — and am truly yours

George Thurber

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